

utrumque latus intra angulum anticum tuberculo calvo minus exstante armatus, angulo antico ipso incrassato tuberculum spiniforme vix formante, undique dense ferrugineo-squamosus et in medio longitudinaliter levissime canaliculatus (canalicula antice in carinam mergente). *Elytra* punctis irregularibus vix albidioribus squamosis hinc inde irrorata, posterius paulatim et facile (sed distincte) attenuata, ad apicem ipsum pilosa truncata et singulatim subito excavata, fere spinas quatuor efficientia. *Antennæ* circa corporis longitudine, nigræ, articulis ad basin plus minus albidioribus. *Pedes* validi, plus minus ferrugineo irrorati; tarsi latis, subtus densissime spongioso-setulosis.

Like the last insect, the present one has been lately received in London from Cambogia, and forms an important addition to the Coleopterous fauna of that region. The genus *Niphona* is principally an East-Indian one; nevertheless species have been discovered at Natal and other parts of Southern Africa, and one (the *N. saperdoides*) has been described by Mulsant even from Algeria and the south of Europe. The *N. Regis-Ferdinandi* has some affinity with the *N. cylindracea* from the East Indies, although widely distinct therefrom specifically. The habits of the *Niphonæ* are rather peculiar; and I am informed by my friend T. V. Wollaston, Esq., of London, that there is a species from Sumatra, in the Collection of the British Museum, which has the following note, relating to its mode of life, appended to it:—

“Sumatra, May 1818. . . . Attaches itself strongly to smooth flat surfaces, for which the inferior part of the tarsi seems peculiarly to be adapted,—being in a manner scutellate, like the feet of the Gecko, common Fly, and *Dytiscus*. They have great strength in the antennæ, which they seem to use as levers for removing obstructions and turning themselves.”

Lisbon, Oct. 15, 1860.

XLVIII.—*Note on Hypericum Anglicum.*

By G. A. WALKER-ARNOTT, LL.D.

THE history of *Hypericum Anglicum* is given by Mr. Babington in the Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 2. vol. xi. p. 360, and vol. xv. p. 92. At first Mr. Babington was disposed to assign this name to what he was afterwards satisfied was *H. hircinum*, a south of Europe species, cultivated and perhaps now naturalized near Cork. Afterwards he more correctly transferred it to specimens he had received from Plymouth, and to others he had seen in Dr. Balfour's herbarium. While preparing the eighth edition of the 'British Flora,' this species much embarrassed me. I possessed no specimens from this country at all agreeing with

Mr. Babington's character, except one from "Hills behind Greenock," which I found in the herbarium of the late Mr. D. Steuart of Edinburgh, but without any indication of the precise locality, the person by whom or the date when collected, although various circumstances connected with my late friend lead me to suppose that he had either collected or received it prior to 1818. This specimen agreed so well with Mr. Babington's description, that I could not doubt of its being the same species which he had in view, although in mine the pedicels and peduncles were certainly not winged—a point which he and Bertoloni considered of great importance. In all the species of *Hypericum* the leaves are opposite and decussate; and it usually results from this mode of arrangement that herbaceous stems, or the herbaceous or young parts of woody stems, are 2-edged or 4-angled, but that after the leaves cease, and there are no large bracts to fulfil their functions, the peduncles are irregularly angled or terete. When there are four sepals, and these of large size, we often find the pedicels 2–4-angled; but when there are five, or when they are small, vegetable physiology shows that we cannot expect this appearance, or, when it is observed, must conclude that it is accidental, and not a peculiarity of the species. I was therefore not disposed to consider the wings on the peduncles mentioned by Bertoloni to be of any importance for distinguishing the species—if, indeed, he had not been deceived by a much-pressed, dried specimen.

H. elatum of Aiton is said to have been introduced to our gardens in 1762; but as yet its native country is undetermined: at one time it was supposed to have been brought from North America, but it is now well ascertained not to be indigenous there. On comparing *H. Anglicum* from Greenock with a cultivated specimen named *H. elatum*, which I have from the late Mr. Brodie's herbarium, their identity was so apparent that I was disposed at once to cancel the former name; but I was deterred by the description given by Spach of his *Androsæmum parviflorum* (Ann. Sc. Nat. 2^{me} sér. v. p. 361), which was taken from a cultivated specimen of *H. elatum*, Ait. (not Desrousseaux), in which he states that the flowers are not much larger than in *H. Androsæmum*, and that the sepals become much enlarged as the fruit advances towards maturity,—neither of which characters applied to what I had before me. I am now quite satisfied, however, that they are the same, and that the sepals vary much in size on the same branch, and sometimes in the same corymb; indeed, they may occasionally be seen small long after the petals fall away, while they are large in some of the flower-buds. The size of the flowers appears to depend much on the humidity of the situation.

Dr. Balfour's localities are three in number :—banks of the Crinan Canal, Argyleshire, Sept. 6, 1827 ; Culross, Perthshire, July 1833 ; and Galway in Ireland, Aug. 6, 1838. His specimens are very imperfect, but are doubtless specifically the same as mine ; their pedicels and peduncles do not appear to me to be winged. The first of these stations I examined with great care during the month of August of this present year, but found nothing at all resembling the plant of which I was in quest ; but as there are some small gardens there (which, however, I did not search), I am now convinced that it had been cultivated. The second locality is known to abound in ornamental foreign shrubs planted throughout the Valleyfield grounds by the gardener. Of the nature of the third locality I am not qualified to speak.

My friend Dr. Dickie of Belfast (now Professor of Botany in the University of Aberdeen) having informed me that he had met with what he supposed to be *H. Anglicum* in the woods at Donard Lodge, at the base of Slieve Donard, near Newcastle, co. Down, I proceeded immediately to Belfast, and accompanied him to the place on the 26th of Sept. Several large bushes of it, some with a woody stem an inch or two in diameter at the base, occurred at a low elevation ; but there were many smaller ones about 500 feet higher up. It had obviously been planted, but whether brought down from the mountain or from a distance remained doubtful until we met the old forester, who assured us that there had been neither a tree nor a shrub there except the *Ulex nanus*, var. *Gallii* (which was everywhere), until he himself planted them, and that he had brought all from a small nursery he had at Castlewellan, a few miles distant. We still clung to the idea that it might have been introduced by him to his nursery from the Slieve ; but he as positively asserted that he had procured it, with many others of the ornamental shrubs we saw, about fifty or sixty years ago, from Dickson's gardens at Edinburgh. The Donard plant quite agrees with my specimen marked *H. elatum*, also with Dr. Balfour's specimens named *H. Anglicum* by Mr. Babington ; and it also accords with the figure of *Androsæmum grandifolium* of Reichenbach (Fl. Germ. vi. p. 70, t. 352. f. 5193). Reichenbach mentions that his specimens had been collected in a thicket or shrubbery at Sion in Switzerland, where it must have been cultivated, and also in "Arran, Buteshire." This last, in all probability, had been taken by some tourist from the grounds about Brodick Castle—a place well adapted to it on account of the mildness of the climate, but where it must have been planted.

I have some doubts about its being the *H. grandifolium* of Choisy or *Androsæmum Webbianum* of Spach ; but I have not authentic specimens from the Canary Islands to decide that

point. Spach arranges his *A. parvifolium* (*H. elatum*, Ait.) and *A. Webbianum* at some distance from each other; and as he was acquainted with both, the presumption is that they do differ: at the same time, the essential character assigned by Choisy to his *H. grandifolium*, in DeCandolle's 'Prodromus,' is equally applicable to *H. elatum*,—the *H. elatum* of Choisy in the same work being no doubt that of Desrousseaux in the 'Encyclopédie Méthodique,' and not that of Aiton: from other circumstances, however, I believe that it will be found that the true *H. grandifolium* has styles almost as long as those of *H. hircinum*, and narrower sepals than those of *H. elatum*. What the Madeira plant alluded to by Mr. Babington is, I do not know.

H. elatum (for so I presume we must in future call the *H. Anglicum* of Bertoloni) is a very handsome shrub, from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 feet high, woody below, much branched, and bearing copious lemon-yellow flowers. Branches often purple or red, as in *Cornus sanguinea*, slightly 2-edged, except between the two uppermost pairs of leaves, where it is usually much compressed or winged. Leaves large, from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ to 2 inches broad, glossy, usually green, but sometimes spotted or tinged with red in autumn. Peduncles and pedicels, when recent, slightly angled, sometimes appearing flat or 2-winged when dried under pressure. Sepals in a double row, outer ones usually much broader than the inner, oval, acute, or with a minute point, varying much in size on the same branch, but without regard to the state of the flower, and not becoming enlarged after the petals fall off; all the sepals become reflexed after flowering, and are persistent. None of the flowers at Donard Lodge had the petals fully expanded, even although they and the bundles of stamens fell off by touching them; all were erect, concave, and closely surrounded the stamens; but this might be caused by their growing in the shade, or by the lateness of the season. The stamens were in five bundles or androphores, and were so slightly united at the base that the stamens appeared distinct when removed artificially.

H. elatum appears to be a much more tender shrub than *H. hircinum*, and is not adapted to general cultivation in this country, except in green-houses: the same localities which are suitable to growing Fuchsias in the open air, where they become small trees or large bushes, are equally adapted to *H. elatum*. Both are injured readily by frost, and then either transformed into an unseemly shrub, or cut down to the ground every winter. It has now almost entirely disappeared from our botanical gardens, but is, I learn, still to be seen in the Botanic Garden of Trinity College, Dublin. Its native country is probably the Azores; and it can have no claim to be considered

a native of Europe, and can scarcely be said even to be naturalized in the British Islands.

Besides the places I have mentioned where it has been seen growing, Mr. Babington states that it was found by Mr. Polwhele on the cliff above Falmouth Harbour; and I learn that there is a specimen in Sir William J. Hooker's herbarium at Kew, sent from Helston, a few miles from Falmouth, by Mr. C. A. Johns.

Glasgow, Oct. 13, 1860.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Gatherings of a Naturalist in Australasia: being Observations principally on the Animal and Vegetable Productions of New South Wales, New Zealand, and some of the Austral Islands. By GEORGE BENNETT, M.D., F.L.S., F.Z.S. &c. 8vo, London, Van Voorst, 1860.

LITTLE more than seventy years have elapsed since the foundation of the British colony of New South Wales. At the period of its establishment, and for many years afterwards, scarcely anything was known in the mother country of the vast island on the shores of which this almost infinitesimally small settlement had been made. Even its coast-line was only made out imperfectly by numerous voyages of discovery; and the condition of its interior has been ascertained within the last few years. But such are the capabilities of this New World, such its adaptation to the production of all the necessaries and most of the luxuries of a highly cultivated state of society, that within this short period—indeed, within the memory of living men—it has advanced from a very unpromising origin to be the most important of our colonial possessions, affording a home and an easy subsistence to so many thousands of our countrymen, that it is hard to find in the old country any one who has not some connexion amongst its inhabitants.

Parallel with this material prosperity, our knowledge of the natural productions of Australia has also advanced rapidly. Scientific expeditions have been sent to explore the coasts and the recesses of those parts of the continent not inhabited by white settlers; private collectors have zealously done their part of the work of discovery, and some of the first botanists and zoologists of Europe have devoted themselves to the task of describing the materials thus collected. Upon the Birds and Mammals of Australia we have in this country two splendid works from the pen of Mr. Gould, who himself undertook a voyage to the Antipodes for the sake of observing his feathered favourites in their native haunts. The sea-weeds of the Australian coasts have also found an able expositor in Prof. Harvey; and of many other groups, both of plants and animals, we possess more or less accurate details.

But the majority of the works in which these particulars are to be